tember 1985, which resulted in the hike in the prices of DMT, were as under:—

Item	Unit	Price in Jan.'85 (Rs.)	Price in Sept. '85 (Rs.)
Naphtha	M.T.	2,981	2,460
Paraxylene (IMP)	M.T.	11,290	13,200
Methanol	M.T.	5,640	7,325
LDO	M.T.	3,379	3,786
Fuel Oil	M.T.	2,696	3,104
Power	MWH	840	900

Renewable Energy Development Agency

1476. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Renewable Energy Development Agency to promote utilisation of renewable sources of energy in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The main objective of the Agency will be to support projects relating to new and renewable suorces of energy, provide partial financial support on soft loan basis for specific projects and schemes for generating energy from renewable materials and sources, provide partial financial support on soft loan basis to manufacturers of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) systems and devices, devise and promote schemes for leasing out NRSE equipment to individuals and institutions on soft terms, function as financial intermediary with the financial institutions on behalf of NRSE industries and undertake evaluation of projects and schemes supported by it.

Solar Thermal Power Plants

1477. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any solar-thermal power plants are proposed to be set up in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that such plants can be set up very fast and are economical; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking to accelerate setting up of such plants in the country to meet energy shortage?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. In order to set up Solar Thermal Power Plants, various technology options have been studied and designs for the most viable options have been prepared. Possible sites for installing solar thermal power plants in a range of 5 to 30 MW are now being selected. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has already installed one solar thermal power plant of capacity 22 KW using Point Focusing Collectors and Steam engine at village Sallojipally in Andhra Pradesh. The plant is being studied for its performance in actual field conditions. Another power plant of capacity 50 KW using Line Focus-